

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0942

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5857

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: FRG/GDR RELATIONS

1. AT LUNCH WITH THE DCM ON JUNE 16 BRAUETIGAM, OF THE FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, DESCRIBED FRG/GDR RELATIONS IN EAST BERLIN AS "COOLING OFF" AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL AND IN MATTERS AFFECTING BERLIN. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN A SIMILAR PERIOD DURING JANUARY-MARCH OF THIS YEAR, ADDING THAT THE RECURRENCE OF THE PRESENT TREND SEEMS TO DATE FROM GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER'S RETURN FROM MOSCOW ON JUNE 5.

2. BRAUETIGAM, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS NOT SUCCEEDED RECENTLY IN OBTAINING APPOINTMENTS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE LEGAL DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH WHOM HE HAS DEALT REGULARLY IN THE PAST. WHEN GAUS ISSUED A LUNCHEON INVITATION A FEW DAYS AGO TO AMBASSADOR SEIDEL OF THE MFA'S GERMAN SECTION FOR THE UNEXPRESSED PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE STATE OF RELATIONS, SEIDEL TOLD GAUS IN AN OBVIOUS DODGE THAT HE

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TIONS, SEIDEL TOLD GAUS IN AN OBVIOUS DODGE THAT HE

WOULD BE UNABLE TO LUNCH "AS I AM GOING ON LEAVE NEXT WEEK."

3. BRAUETIGAM EMPHASIZED THAT AT TECHNICAL LEVELS BUSINESS CONTINUES AS USUAL HERE. HE SPECULATED THAT EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES MIGHT BE REFLECTING UNCERTAINTIES STEMMING FROM THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. HE BELIEVES THERE MAY EITHER BE A REASSESSMENT OF SOVIET AND GDR POLICIES TOWARD THE FRG UNDERWAY, OR, WHAT IS MORE LIKELY, THAT FISCHER AND OTHERS MAY NOT BE AS CONFIDENT OF GUIDELINES AT A TIME WHEN AN EVENTUAL CHANGE IN SOVIET LEADERSHIP IS IN PROSPECT, AND THEY ARE THEREFORE INCLINED TOWARD CAUTION.

4. BRAUETIGAM THOUGHT THAT RECENT SOVIET PROTESTS ABOUT THE VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER TO BERLIN TO ACCOMPANY SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH THE QA AS SUCH, AND WERE DIRECTED AGAINST GENSCHER PERSONALLY. A POSSIBLE SOVIET TACTIC, SUPPORTED BY THE GDR, MAY BE TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER BY CREATING THE IMPRESSION THAT LITTLE IF ANYTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE PRESENT FOREIGN MINISTER. BRAUETIGAM DESCRIBED RELATIONS BETWEEN GENSCHER AND SCHMIDT AS GOOD AND SAID THIS TACTIC WOULD HAVE NO CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THE WEST GERMANS HERE ARE NOT UNDULY CONCERNED ABOUT BAROMETRIC CHANGES IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE GDR (IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE), IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY ATTRIBUTE THE PRESENT FLUCTUATION TO CONDITIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION AS PERCIVED BY THE GDR LEADERSHIP. THE COOLING OFF PERIOD MAY LAST A MATTER OF MONTHS, BUT BRAUETIGAM SPECULATES THAT CSCE WILL CAUSE A SHIFT, AND THAT IN ANY CASE THERE IS NO DISCERNABLE GDR INTEREST IN A LONG-TERM DECLINE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. COOPER

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